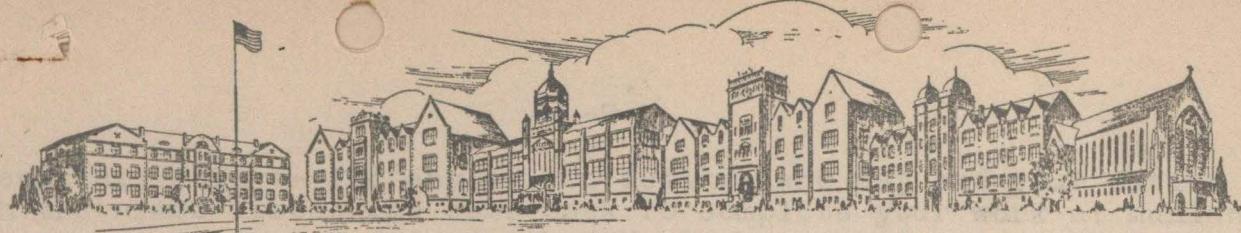


from



MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

March 23, 1945

Number 57

Greetings:

Today we can definitely and finally wind up the basketball season and we think we'll be justified in tucking it away in a blaze of glory in spite of the fact that some of you have heard that we lost to St. John's University of Brooklyn in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament in Madison Square Garden on Monday night. The big thing to remember is that of the several hundred college basketball teams on the circuit this year, Muhlenberg was one of the eight IN the playoffs. Perhaps you'll have to admit something or other if you meet men from St. John's or DePaul, but you won't have to give too much ground even to them.

We lost the St. John's game by a single point--the score was 34-33--in spite of the fact that enroute to the game Haps and Red Baldwin passed three loads of hay and in spite of the fact that the bright boys who figure things out hadn't given Muhlenberg a ghost of a chance against the team that won the tournament two consecutive years. The game, the New York World Telegram had to admit, was "one of the strangest ever seen in the Garden." For 8 minutes and 34 seconds after the start Muhlenberg ran up 10 points and St. John's was unable to tally a single point. In the next 11½ minutes Muhlenberg didn't get a field goal, but the half ended with the Mules on the long end of a 14-13 score. During the game the lead changed hands 14 times and was tied three times. When St. John's got ahead in the closing minutes they played good basketball and froze the ball for the last two minutes. Baldwin's shot as the gun sounded hit the rim but missed going through.

That, in a nut shell, is the story of the Garden game--a game in which anyone could have been just as proud of Muhlenberg as they were through the season when the team ran up 24 victories in 27 starts against some of the biggest and best teams in the East. The final victory was over the Navy Hospital team of Philadelphia, a 36-35 count, in a warm-up for the tournament game.

We think you'll be even a bit more proud of this--and we don't care how far your chest sticks out. Muhlenberg is giving all of the net proceeds from the Garden Game to the Red Cross War Fund. We're not keeping a nickel of the receipts we get from that game except the bare expenses of the game. The rest--it may amount to about \$2,000--will be given to the Red Cross through the Lehigh County Chapter in the name of the College and its 1,801 sons in the armed forces. Muhlenberg doesn't have any money to give away. It needs every nickel it can get and needs it badly. But we appreciate what the Red Cross has been doing for so many of you fellows and we want to help just a little bit. That's why the Board of Trustees voted all of the net proceeds of the Garden game to the Red Cross. Personally, we think that indicates how BIG Muhlenberg really is, and we hope you'll feel the same way about it. Pardon us for appearing to brag.

When the game ended the other night, Doggie took the train for Worcester and is on his new job at Holy Cross. And that ends the basketball season--except to tell you that Johnny Bird, who played a bang-up game during the regular season, has been inducted into the Army and that Bobby O'Brien, a regular, and Al Julian, a sub who gave a good account of himself, also have been called into service.

Back on the other side of the ledger, definite announcement has just been made that Muhlenberg will continue to operate on the accelerated around-the-year schedule for the new academic year beginning July 1. That means that new classes will enter in each of the three terms, July 1, November 1, and March 1. We're continuing that to help any high school graduates complete as much of their education as possible before they are called for service and to keep the doors open--without

TO ITS FIGHTING MEN AROUND THE WORLD

unnecessary delays--for any of you fellows who may end your duties with the armed forces and come back to complete your work at Muhlenberg. And you can tell your friends that Muhlenberg will have a REAL PROGRAM for all returning service men who want to avail themselves of a college education under the terms of the GI Bill of Rights.

We have had some private victory reunions during the past two weeks as nine of the boys, home on leave after months or years of overseas service, dropped in for visits. Among them were LIEUTENANT HENRY K. WETHERHOLD '45, who completed 30 missions over German and continental targets as the pilot of a Fortress and who qualified for the Air Medal with four clusters and the Presidential citation; MAJOR FORREST MOYER '35, back for 30 days after 30 months of service with an Air Force medical unit in Africa and Italy and also wearing a Presidential citation with a star; LIEUTENANT HOWARD MILLER '34, who has been overseas for 31 months, most of it in Italy as a postal officer; LIEUTENANT RALPH D. HAAF '46, pilot of a Fortress, veteran of 35 flights, and one of the first pilots to operate against the enemy from a base on Russian soil; LIEUTENANT JAMES A. KILPATRICK '33, who has been fighter control officer on a baby flat top in the South Pacific since last May; LIEUTENANT (jg) WILLIAM D. MILLER '30, in from duty as communications officer with a patrol bomber squadron based in Brazil; LIEUTENANT WILLIAM FLUCK '38, who has been a Navy routing officer in Panama for many months and who will report for new duty with the port director at San Pedro, Cal.; LIEUTENANT CHARLES TRINKLE '42, who had 18 months of service in Hawaii, Saipan, Eniwetok, and Leyte, and who came back unexpectedly when interneos from Bataan were brought to San Francisco instead of to Pearl Harbor; and LIEUTENANT JAMES F. McGOVERN '19, who served with the Navy as recreational officer in Hawaii and at Guam before coming back for temporary duty at the Naval Air Station, Atlantic City.

We also have heard that MAJOR FREDERICK FAIRCLOUGH '32, overseas for three years, is home on leave from Hawaii where he has been serving as a chaplain. He, incidentally, was one of the first Muhlenberg men to go overseas after Pearl Harbor and from all reports has been doing a typically fine Muhlenberg job. Major Moyer, Lt. Miller, Lt. Trinkle, and Lt. Kilpatrick are returning to their assignments at the expiration of their leaves. The others are being or have been assigned to new duties. Kilpatrick received a commendation from Vice-Admiral Kincaid for "distinguishing himself by excellent service in the line of his profession in connection with operations of his ship while under attack by a superior enemy force." Observing that the homing device on the guard ship had been damaged, he assumed the guard of his own ship and the value of that action was amply attested to by the squadron's pilots.

Another of the boys to win honors was SERGEANT JOSEPH E. PODANY '42, who received the bronze star in the European theatre for his ingenuity in installing radios in tanks, half-tracks, trucks, and jeeps in record time despite the shortage of specialized parts and the difficulties of construction within limited space. His resourcefulness was called "meritorious service in connection with military operation."

Two of the boys won't be back for that Victory Reunion--the 17th and the 18th to be marked with gold stars. DONALD STERRIT '33 was reported killed in Alaska when his gun discharged as he was removing it from his holster. LIEUTENANT JOSEPH B. WALKER III '43 was killed in a plane crash in England on February 19. Joe had been in England for only a short time. He was the pilot of a Liberator.

And now for the mail from the Pacific.

We guessed right about LIEUTENANT PETE GOROGONE '43 of the Marines. As you might expect, his outfit led the first assault on Iwo Jima. Pete reports a few close shaves, but was able to write when the Japs had been all but pushed off the strategic base.

LIEUTENANTS NELSON GRAHAM '40 and LEE SNYDER '42 manage to get together occasionally in the Netherlands East Indies, according to letters from both of them. Lee reports that Nelse's outfit has one of the best organized and most active Special Services programs on the

base--but that's what you'd expect of Nelse. On one party they had together, Nelse says Snyder got a real thrill when the other officers began singing "Muhlenberg Will Shine Tonight."

Talking about singing, S/SGT. SPIRO CHIAPARAS '42 tipped us off that every time he and LIEUTENANT SCRAPPER FARRELL '39 get together over a few whatever it is they have to drink in the Philippines, they wind up singing all the Muhlenberg songs they can remember. Chiaparas, overseas for more than 26 months, says he has heard a lot of fellows talk to outsiders about Muhlenberg but has never heard any like Scrapp. In his Pacific tour of duty Spiro visited Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, and the Northern Solomons. While in the Solomons he had a reunion with LIEUTENANT ARTHUR WATSON '42.

We have a few other letters from the Philippines this trip. CAPTAIN E.M. ERNST '38 arrived there in January to work with a field hospital unit. After seven days of continuous duty, he went to a hospital near a large city to help in the air evacuation of battle casualties and American internees. Anyone who can see those relics of the Jap reign of terror, he says, he will be more than ready to turn the exterminator squad loose on all Japs. Ernst went overseas in January 1944 and participated in the initial landing on Dutch New Guinea. Several samples of Philippine currency came in from LIEUTENANT JACK BLAIR '38, working with the Guerrillas in the Philippines and assuring us that he has an exciting and interesting job. PRIVATE F.H. GENDALL '30 was with the first wave to hit the Philippines, making the D Day landing on January 9. In spite of artillery and mortar fire and a few close shaves, he reports he is still safe and sound.

Crossing the pond for duty in Hawaii, LIEUTENANT HAROLD L. GOLL '32 had the company of one of the Pfeifer brothers. Both Wahl and Bill are Navy chaplains so it must have been one of them. On duty at a Naval hospital with a San Francisco FPO address, PhM3/c DICK JACOBS '46 is being kept busy helping to take care of some of the casualties from Iwo Jima. Among the boys taking part in the now famous carrier strike against Tokyo (the first) was LIEUTENANT JAMES D. MOATZ '39, Naval surgeon who has been stationed on Guam. On his tour of duty through the Pacific, PFC. LLOYD ESLINGER '47 of the Marines has been at Hawaii, Einwetok, Kwajalein and now is on an island that was once held by the Japanese.

GEORGE BIBIGHAUS '45, whose specialty is recreation and physical fitness, had a "luxury cruise" of the Pacific with stops at New Caledonia, New Guinea, and Pancake Hill before he arrived in the Philippine. Just before hitting the Philippines he lived in a tent he is sure was put up inside out because the water poured through it but wouldn't drain out. Now he'd like a good book on how to tame insects--any species because where he is he claims they have them all. Out in Hawaii, LT.(jg) J. FREDERICK GEHR '32 has had get-togethers with CHAPLAINS GERHART '22, TRUCHSES '26, SELL '28, and FAIRCLOUGH '32 before Fairclough headed for the States. He also met Navy LT. H.M.M. RICHARDS '32 before the latter headed further west.

JOE SHANOSKY '43, on submarine duty in the Pacific, occasionally gets to see ENSIGN JOE ROEDIGER '43, assigned to a sister ship. Also in the Pacific, LT.(jg) BILL DOABLER '38 bumped into Navy LT. SAM SHIME '33. In his Pacific travels ENSIGN BILL DEISSLER '43 crossed the Equator and now is a full-fledged shellback. ENSIGN JIM BUTTERWICK '44 is the only Mule he found kicking around the same ocean. SK1/c ALBERT SWANK '29 has discovered that he frequently has been in proximity with Muhlenberg men in Palau, Leyte, New Guinea, Morotai, the Admiralties, the Solomons, and Luzon, but somehow or other he has never met any. LT.(jg) FRANK NEWMAN '43 reports better luck--meetings with several Muhlenberg men in the Pacific, include LT.(jg) CHUCK MORAN '43, LT. (jg) JACK CLIFFORD, ENSIGN JOHN METZGER '42 and LT.(jg) BILL VANNESS '42. Frank is gunnery officer on a destroyer escort.

In the China-Burma-India theatre S/SGT. TUSS BECKER '43 (who claim he writes to us every week) is anxiously waiting for rotation to bring him home. CPL. SEYMOUR BEST '44, in service for 26 months, has been in Bengal Province two months. He has, however, seen Puerto Rico, British Guiana, Brazil, East Africa, Central Africa, British West Africa, and Anglo Egyptian Sudan. From Calcutta comes word from SGT. HAROLD.

HELFRICH '44, who says that summer has returned and his tent is a cross between a turkish bath and an oven filled with Christmas turkey. LT.COL. ROLAND HARTMAN's new APO address may have put him in China, but we're only guessing.

And now to hop across to the European theatre where a few hundred of our men are helping deflate the supermen. After visiting 27 departments of France, MAJOR RICHARD N. THOMPSON '41 likes the French as much as he ever did--and he really did like them when he was on duty there some years ago on a State Department assignment. In a rest area, PFC. ROY BUTTERWICK '46 was enjoying the feel of a good bed after a long session on the ground. PFC. WALTER CONRAD '30 has been stationed in Belgium for sometime. He's with an MP unit and from his pictures looks to be in the pink. CPL. GEORGE RIZOS '44 read the last service letter in a large French chateau in Alsace. His brother Bill '47 is with the 9th Army in Holland with an anti-aircraft battery that received the bronze star for destroying the first enemy plane in 1945.

Somewhere in the ETO SGT. TOM MEREDITH '42 received word that on January 15 he became the father of the most perfect baby ever born. Her name is Judith Lee. PFC. DON MELCHER '47 checked in from a hospital unit somewhere across the Atlantic. The report was by mail. CPL. LAMAR FESIG '46 is still stationed in Holland, but he had enough time to see Brussels and was surprised to find it so modern. PFC. BOB ADAMS '40 has told us something of his sight-seeing tours around England. LT.(jg) AL KUNZ '33 reports three trips across the Atlantic in as many months with an armed guard unit. The work is interesting, he says, but the North Atlantic can become rough. LT. VASCO FENILI '40 is in the thick of things in Germany and assures us the Naxis are getting the beating they have so long deserved.

After going through Franco, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Holland with the 7th Armored Division, LT. E.R. BARTLESON '37 is in France. He came through OK at St. Vith during the battle of the Bulge and while in Belgium bumped into SGT. WILLARD HAAS '39. LT.COL. FRANK BROWN '19 came through with a good report of a Christmas party for Italian children--2,000 crowded the theatre and a thousand more were outside. It took 50 MP's and a fire brigade to keep them in line when the gifts, donated by the American soldiers, were distributed. LT. JOHN MAXWELL '44, in North Africa with the Army Airways Communication System, says his duty is the best anyone could ask for. The part of Iran where T/SGT. LINFORD STEVER '42 is stationed has enough mud to match the Pennsylvania snowbanks someone told him about.

Stateside mail comes from ENSIGN JIM WILDER '45, at the Naval Radar Training School at St. Simon's Island, Ga.; SGT. JOE MILLER '42, at an Army Air Field in Walterboro, S.C.; PFC. BILL BIRMINGHAM '43, completing his medical school work at Hahnemann and ready to be married in the Muhlenberg Chapel next Friday; A/S DAVE TYSON '47, who climbs to the seventh floor of his quarters at Columbia Midshipman's School; Marine PVT. HARRY POWELL '46, just underway at Parris Island; HAL/c MARTIN SHEMELLA '45, awaiting a physical discharge at Shoemaker, Cal. and ready to resume where he left off at Muhlenberg; SK3/c Carlos Puig '44, transferred from his native San Juan to Quonset Point, R.I. and trying to adjust himself to the change in climate; HAL/c Ted Colarusso '47, stationed at Mare Island; A/C MERLE MEEDER '44 at Peru, Ind.; ENSIGN EDWARD STILES '44, completing some more training at Miami, Fla.; and Joseph Iandolo '44 in the Diesel school at Richmond, Va.

That winds it up for today. We had to omit the promotions but we'll tell you about them in the next letter. Here's to more good luck as you keep up the good work of finishing this thing up.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office

P.S. The Philadelphia Alumni Club is having its annual dinner meeting at Kugler's Restaurant, Broad and Chestnut Sts., at 6:30 p.m. TUESDAY APRIL 3. There'll be a warm welcome for any of you fellows who are in the Philadelphia area. Try to get around. Those Philadelphia club parties are always dandies. We'll be looking for you.